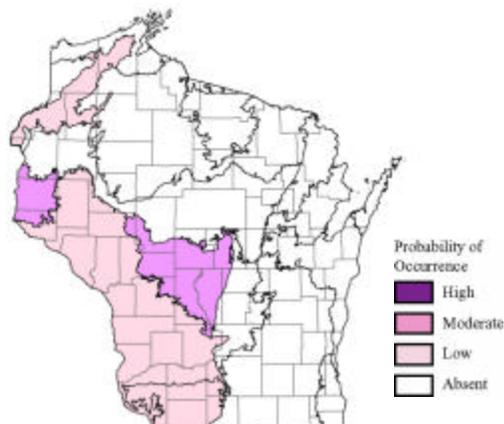


## White-tailed Jackrabbit (*Lepus townsendii*)

### Species Assessment Scores\*

|                          |     |
|--------------------------|-----|
| State rarity:            | 5   |
| State threats:           | 3   |
| State population trend:  | 5   |
| Global abundance:        | 3   |
| Global distribution:     | 4   |
| Global threats:          | 3   |
| Global population trend: | 3   |
| Mean Risk Score:         | 3.7 |
| Area of importance:      | 1   |

\* Please see the [Description of Vertebrate Species Summaries \(Section 3.1.1\)](#) for definitions of criteria and scores.



### Ecological Landscape Associations

Please note that this is not a range map. Shading does not imply that the species is present throughout the Landscape, but represents the probability that the species occurs somewhere in the Landscape.

### Landscape-community Combinations of Highest Ecological Priority

| Ecological Landscape      | Community            |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Central Sand Plains       | Dry prairie          |
| Central Sand Plains       | Dry-mesic prairie    |
| Central Sand Plains       | Sand prairie         |
| Central Sand Plains       | Surrogate Grasslands |
| Southwest Savanna         | Dry prairie          |
| Southwest Savanna         | Dry-mesic prairie    |
| Western Coulee and Ridges | Dry prairie          |
| Western Coulee and Ridges | Dry-mesic prairie    |
| Western Coulee and Ridges | Sand prairie         |
| Western Prairie           | Dry prairie          |
| Western Prairie           | Dry-mesic prairie    |
| Western Prairie           | Sand prairie         |
| Western Prairie           | Surrogate Grasslands |

### Threats and Issues

- Predation threatens this species.
- Diseases such as Tularemia and cuterebra (botfly) may be a threat to this species.
- Loss of prairie habitat to agricultural cultivation, roads, and housing is a threat to this species.
- Legal harvest/shooting may be an issue for this species (it is listed as a game animal in Wisconsin with a daily bag limit of 3, and a season from October 16 to November 15).
- Mortality from vehicles may be an issue for this species.

**Priority Conservation Actions**

- Reintroduction into regions covered by the Greater Prairie Chicken and Sharp-tailed Grouse Management Plans may be the most viable means of re-establishing this species.
- Consensus is needed on whether the species should be considered as introduced, non-native, or native through range expansion in Wisconsin. The latter designation would suggest that additional conservation action may be warranted, including protection from harvest.
- Providing clearings and prairies will be beneficial for this species, as it prefers open country. Formerly rare, the jackrabbit has become numerous as a result of clearing and drainage operations.